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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)

2. REPORT TYPE  
Technical Papers

3. DATES COVERED (From - To)

4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE

5a. CONTRACT NUMBER N/A

5b. GRANT NUMBER

5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER

6. AUTHOR(S)

5d. PROJECT NUMBER

2308

5e. TASK NUMBER

M19B

5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER

7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC)  
AFRL/PRS  
5 Pollux Drive  
Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048

8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION  
REPORT

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)

Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC)  
AFRL/PRS  
5 Pollux Drive  
Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048

10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S  
ACRONYM(S)

11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S  
NUMBER(S)

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

14. ABSTRACT

20030110 078

15. SUBJECT TERMS

16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:

a. REPORT

Unclassified

b. ABSTRACT

Unclassified

c. THIS PAGE

Unclassified

17. LIMITATION  
OF ABSTRACT

A

18. NUMBER  
OF PAGES

19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE  
PERSON

Leilani Richardson

19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER  
(include area code)

(661) 275-5015

Standard Form 298 (Rev. 8-98)  
Prescribed by ANSI Std. Z39.18

21 separate items enclosed

2308M19B

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FROM: PROI (TI) (STINFO)

25 Oct 2000

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: **AFRL-PR-ED-AB-2000-208**  
Vaghjiana, Ghanshyam (ERC), "Kinetics of OH Reactions with  $N_2H_4$ ,  $CH_3NHNH_2$  and  $(CH_3)_2NNH_2$  in the Gas Phase"

**International Journal of Chemical Kinetics**  
(Deadline: 30 Sep 2000 – PAST DUE)

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# Kinetics of OH Reactions With $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ , $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$ and $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$ in the Gas Phase

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## ABSTRACT

The gas phase reaction kinetics of OH with three di-amine rocket fuels;  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  was studied in a discharge flow-tube apparatus and a pulsed-photolysis reactor under pseudo-first-order conditions in [OH]. Direct laser-induced fluorescence monitoring of the [OH] temporal profiles in a known excess of the [di-amine] yielded the following absolute second-order OH rate coefficient expressions;  $k_1 = (2.17 \pm 0.39) \times 10^{-11} e^{(160 \pm 30)/T}$ ,  $k_2 = (4.59 \pm 0.83) \times 10^{-11} e^{(85 \pm 35)/T}$  and  $k_3 = (3.35 \pm 0.60) \times 10^{-11} e^{(175 \pm 25)/T} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , respectively, for reactions with  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  in the temperature range 232-637 K. All three reactions did not show any discernable pressure dependence on He or  $\text{N}_2$  buffer gas pressure of up to 530 torr. The magnitude, and the weak temperature and the lack of pressure effects of the OH +  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  reaction

rate coefficient suggests that a simple direct metathesis of H-atom may not be important compared to addition of the OH to one of the N-centers of the di-amine skeleton, followed by rapid dissociation of the intermediate into products. Our findings on this reaction are qualitatively consistent with a previous ab-initio study [Armstrong *et al.* *J Phys Chem A* 1997, 101, 4761]. However, in the alkylated di-amines, direct H-abstraction from the methyl moiety can not be completely ruled out.

## INTRODUCTION

Hydrazine ( $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ), methylhydrazine ( $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$ ) and unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine ( $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$ ) form an important class of di-amine based rocket fuels. Understanding the reactivity of OH radicals towards these di-amines is important in accurately modeling the combustion of these fuels with nitrogen tetroxide, and for assessing their environmental human health impact when inadvertently released into the lower atmosphere near launch pads. The other tropospheric oxidant for these fuels is expected to be ozone. To our knowledge, no accurate reaction rate coefficient data is available in the literature for the  $\text{O}_3$  reactions, and only two groups [1,2] have reported a limited data set on the rate coefficient,  $k_1$  for the  $\text{OH} + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  reaction. The 298 K values of  $k_1$  differ by a factor of  $\sim 3$  in these two studies. A brief study on the rate coefficient,  $k_2$  for the  $\text{OH} + \text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  reaction has also been carried out previously [1]. There is no data to be found on the direct measurement of the rate coefficient,  $k_3$  for the  $\text{OH} + (\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  reaction.

Here we report a detailed study of the gas phase kinetics of OH reactions with the three di-amines in the temperature range 232-637 K and for He or N<sub>2</sub> buffer gas pressure of up to 530 torr. The experimental observations are discussed in terms of a reaction mechanism involving the initial addition of the OH to the di-amine molecule followed by rapid dissociation of the intermediate to products [3].

## EXPERIMENTAL TECHNIQUE

Previously, we have described the details of the fast flow-tube apparatus and the pulsed-photoysis reactor [4,5]. Here, we only give the details of reagent preparations, and how the reaction kinetics data were collected and analyzed.

The di-amine plus OH reactions were studied under pseudo-first-order conditions in OH concentration ( $[OH] \ll [di\text{-amine}]$ ). The gas phase [di-amine] concentration in the experiments was determined by uv photometric techniques, and accurate measurements of the system's pressure, temperature and carrier gas flow rates using previously calibrated capacitance manometers, thermocouples and electronic mass-flow meters. The uv-absorption cross sections,  $\sigma_{213.9\text{-nm}}$  of  $220.5 \times 10^{-20}$ ,  $248.9 \times 10^{-20}$  and  $399.9 \times 10^{-20} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ molec}^{-1}$ , respectively for N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>NHNH<sub>2</sub> and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NNH<sub>2</sub> were used [4,6]. The Teflon/Pyrex flow-lines were previously conditioned with the di-amines so that its in-situ decomposition in the reactors was negligible. The OH was probed using a tunable pulsed-laser operating at  $\sim 282.15 \text{ nm}$  to excite the Q<sub>12</sub> line of the OH transition, ( $A^2\Sigma^+, v' = 1 \leftarrow X^2\Pi, v'' = 0$ ). The resulting laser-induced

fluorescence due to the transitions, ( $A^2\Sigma^+$ ,  $v' = 1 \rightarrow X^2\Pi$ ,  $v'' = 1$ , bandhead at 312.16 nm) and ( $A^2\Sigma^+$ ,  $v' = 0 \rightarrow X^2\Pi$ ,  $v'' = 0$ , bandhead at 306.36 nm), ensuing from the detection zone was detected orthogonally to the probe laser beam by gated-charge integration/signal averaging techniques [5,7].

The OH was generated either in a fixed side-arm or in a sliding double-injector microwave discharge port of the fast flow-tube apparatus. The inside walls of the port were coated with a 30% solution of  $H_3PO_4$  acid to minimize loss of the precursor radicals for OH production. 1%  $H_2$  in He or 1%  $CF_4$  in He mixtures were discharged to produce H-atoms and F-atoms, respectively. These were immediately titrated downstream of the plasma with  $NO_2$  and  $H_2O$ , respectively, to produce OH radicals before injecting them into a known amount of the di-amine being carried by He with a total linear bulk-flow velocity,  $v$ . (The di-amine entered the main reaction zone of the flow-tube from the sliding injector when the OH was produced in the side-arm, and vice versa.) All surfaces that came in contact with the OH were coated with a halocarbon wax to reduce the loss rate of OH to the walls. The flow-tube was operated under plug-flow conditions at a nominal He pressure of  $\sim 2$  torr and in the temperature range 232-374 K. Below 232 K, the loss rate of OH to the walls in the presence of the di-amine was so high that the signal-to-noise ratio of the OH-fluorescence fell below the detection limit (of  $1 \times 10^9$  molec  $cm^{-3}$  per 1000-pulse-integrations). The flow-tube had to be warmed to 232 K or above in order to recover the OH signal to its original level. Similarly above 374 K, the OH could not be detected, this time due to fogging of the cooler optical components of the detection chamber from condensation of the halocarbon wax vapor ensuing from the heated reaction zone of the flow-tube. At each [di-amine], the kinetics of the OH plus di-amine reaction was followed by

recording the steady-state OH-fluorescence signal strength as a function of the reaction distance,  $z$  between the point of reagent mixing at the injector tip and the fixed detection zone downstream of the flow-tube.

A pulsed-photolysis reactor operating at up to 530 torr of He pressure under slow-flow conditions was employed to extend the rate coefficient measurements to 637 K. Data at higher temperatures was not collected as significant charring of the inside surfaces of the reactor was observed due to heterogeneous decomposition of the alkylated di-amines. A premixed flow of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$ , and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and di-amine vapors in He was subjected to 193-nm laser photolysis to generate the hydroxyl radicals ( $\text{N}_2\text{O} + h\nu \rightarrow \text{N}_2 + \text{O}(^1\text{D})$ ) followed by  $\text{O}(^1\text{D}) + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{OH}$  [8,9]). In this setup, the kinetics was followed by determining the  $[\text{OH}]$  time profile immediately after the photolysis by recording the relative OH-fluorescence signal strength as a function of the delay time between the photolysis and probe laser pulses.

## Materials

He (>99.9997%) from U. S. Bureau of Mines,  $\text{N}_2$  (99.9995%) from Spectra Gases and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  (99.99%) from Matheson Gas Products were used as received. Hydrocarbon-free  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  (Viking Grade) from Edwards AFB,  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  (>99.3%) and  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  (>99.5%) from Olin Chemicals were subjected to several freeze-thaw purification cycles at a grease-less vacuum line, and the purified distillates dried over BaO or  $\text{CaH}_2$ .  $\text{NO}_2$  (99.9%) from M. G. Scientific Gases was mixed with excess  $\text{O}_2$  to react away any NO present and the mixture collected in a

trap over silica gel at 213 K. The excess O<sub>2</sub> and any other volatiles were pumped off and the condensate subjected to several freeze-thaw purification cycles. A standard 1% NO<sub>2</sub> in He titration mixture was prepared. O<sub>2</sub> (99.991%) from Big Three Industries, CF<sub>4</sub> (99.7%) from Scott Specialty and H<sub>2</sub> (99.999%) from Linde Specialty Gases were used as supplied to make up a 1% in He discharge mixtures. The water was distilled in the laboratory.

## RESULTS

Since the [di-amine] is always in a great excess over the [OH] in the flow-tube, it can be shown that the pseudo-first-order decay coefficient,  $k$ , for OH radicals is given by,  $\ln\{OHS/OHS_0\} = -k.t$ . Where OHS is the net (background-subtracted) steady-state OH-fluorescence signal strength recorded at the detection zone for a reaction time of  $t = z/v$ . The flow-tube reaction distance,  $z$ , is defined to be the length between the tip of the injector where the OH enters and the OH-fluorescence detection axis.  $v$  is the bulk linear flow velocity of the He carrier gas.  $OHS_0$  is the net signal strength that would be observed for  $z = 0$  and corresponds to the initial concentration,  $[OH]_0$  available at the detection zone.  $k = k_w + k_i[\text{di-amine}]$ , where  $k_w$  is the first-order loss rate term for OH radicals to the walls, and  $k_i$  the absolute second-order OH reaction rate coefficient with the di-amine ( $i = 1, 2$ , or  $3$  for N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, CH<sub>3</sub>NHNH<sub>2</sub> and (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NNH<sub>2</sub>, respectively). Values of  $k$  in the range 100-600 s<sup>-1</sup> were extracted from non-linear-least-squares fits to the data points of the observed exponential decays of the OH radical signal, see Figure 1. In the absence of the di-amine,  $k_w$  was typically found to



be  $\sim 30\text{-}40\text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K. (For OH entering upstream via the fixed side-arm port, there is additional loss of OH, that increases as the reaction length is decreased due to increasing amount of exposure to the injector walls. This lost rate term,  $k_{w,i}$  was typically found to be  $\sim 10\text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K.) The values of  $k$  were plotted as a function of [di-amine] to extract the corresponding  $k_i$  values by fitting the data to a linear-least-squares routine, see Figure 2.

In the pulsed-photolysis experiments, the OH signal after the initiating laser pulse is recorded as a function of the delay time between the photolysis and probe laser pulses. Again, exponential profiles were recorded with decay coefficients,  $k$  given by;  $k_d + k_1[\text{di-amine}]$ . Here,  $k_d$  represents the sum of first-order loss rate terms of OH due to diffusion out of the detection volume and reaction with background impurities.  $k_d$  was typically measured to be in the range  $50\text{-}100\text{ s}^{-1}$  and  $k$  in the range  $500\text{-}5000\text{ s}^{-1}$ .

Tables I, II and III show the values of  $k_i$  determined in this work with the experimental conditions employed. Variation in the initial hydroxyl radical concentration,  $[\text{OH}]_0$  employed or the source chemistry utilized had no systematic effect on the  $k_i$  values, showing that the influence of any source radicals or secondary OH reactions on the rate coefficient determinations is negligible. Also, no discernable pressure effect of  $k_i$  was observed in this work for up to 530 torr of He.  $k_1$  was also found to be independent of  $\text{N}_2$  pressure of up to 403 torr. Data in  $\text{N}_2$  was obtained by looking at the temporal profile of the hydroxyl radical in the reaction of O-atoms with  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  which is known to yield  $\text{OH}(v'')$  [5]. O-atoms were produced by the rapid  $\text{N}_2$  quenching of  $\text{O}(^1\text{D})$  generated in the 193-nm photolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  [10]. Sufficient  $\text{CO}_2$  is added

to the photolysis mixture, such that it preferentially quenches the OH( $v''$ ) product to its ground  $v'' = 0$  state before any significant reactive loss takes place [11]. The observed OH-fluorescence profiles were fitted to a bi-exponential expression as described previously [5] to extract the absolute second-order reaction rate coefficients,  $k_1$ (phenomenological) and  $k_O$ , respectively, for OH and O-atom [12] reactions with hydrazine, see Figure 3. The temperature dependencies of  $k_i$  are summarized in Figure 4.

## DISCUSSION

The reactions of OH with the di-amines are very fast, close to the gas-kinetic limit, and show slight negative temperature dependencies. The Arrhenius fits to the data points of Figure 4 give the following expressions;  $k_1 = (2.17 \pm 0.39) \times 10^{-11} e^{(160 \pm 30)/T}$ ,  $k_2 = (4.59 \pm 0.83) \times 10^{-11} e^{(85 \pm 35)/T}$  and  $k_3 = (3.35 \pm 0.60) \times 10^{-11} e^{(175 \pm 25)/T} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , respectively, for reactions with  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  in the temperature range 232-637 K, and for employed He or  $\text{N}_2$  pressure of up to 530 torr. Previous flash photolysis-resonance fluorescence study of Harris et al. [1] reported a temperature dependence of  $4.4 \times 10^{-11} e^{(116 \pm 176)/T} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ , in the range 298-424 K, for the OH +  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  reaction. No dependence was observed on the Ar pressure used which was varied in the range 25-50 torr. Also under their conditions, a temperature independent rate coefficient of  $(6.5 \pm 1.3) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  was reported for the OH +  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  reaction. However, for the OH +  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  reaction, they could only estimate a room temperature value of  $(5 \pm 2) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ .

because of severe handling problems encountered with this dialkylated di-amine. At 298 K, Harris et al.'s values are ~ 75% larger, ~ 6% larger and ~ 17% smaller than our values for  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$ , respectively. An earlier communication from Hack et al. [2] for the  $\text{OH} + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  reaction studied by discharge flow-tube-ESR technique reported a value of  $2.2 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K which is ~ 41% smaller than our value. Harris et al.'s values for the alkylated di-amines are in very good agreement with the present study. However, their absolute  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  values differ significantly from ours, though the reported temperature dependence agrees reasonably well. The lack of proper quantification of the  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  number density in their and Hack et al.'s work might possibly be one of the reasons as to why there is disagreement in the absolute values for  $k_1$ . We have made accurate, to within  $\pm \sim 6\%$  [6], in-situ measurements of the [di-amine] in our experiments and have confirmed that the measured rate coefficients are independent of the  $[\text{OH}]_0$  range employed. The overall accuracy of the rate coefficients in this work is calculated to be  $\sim \pm 18\%$  (1- $\sigma$  precision plus systematic errors) [5]. Some problematic wall effects were noticed when using  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$ , especially at temperatures below 278 K. The flow-tube became easily contaminated with yellow oily deposits on prolonged exposures which resulted in unusually large OH wall loss rates compared to that observed in a freshly coated flow-tube with the halocarbon wax. This was evident from the larger than normal intercepts in  $k$  versus  $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2]$  plots even at the lowest  $[\text{OH}]_0$  used. The flow-tube was frequently re-waxed to minimize this problem.

The slight negative temperature dependence and lack of pressure effect on  $k_1$  suggests that the mechanism of OH attack involves its initial addition to  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  followed by fast

dissociation of the adduct to products ( $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_3$ ). The findings of a previous ab-initio study by Armstrong et al. [3] on this reaction are qualitatively consistent with the present experimental observations. The shape of the potential energy profile along the reaction coordinate leading to  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_3 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$  as the products was examined. A single pre-reaction complex characterized by an OH---NN hydrogen-bond (OH---N distance 1.859 Å, H---N-N angle  $170.1^\circ$ ) was found at both B3LYP/6-31+G(D, P) and MP2/6-31+G(D, P) levels of theory. The G2(MP2) energy of this was computed to be  $\sim 5.5 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  lower than that of ( $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{OH}$ ). However, no transition-state for the direct H-abstraction by OH could be located at the B3LYP/6-31+G(D, P) level. Any approach by OH to an endo-H of hydrazine resulted in H-atom loss without activation. Instead, a transition-state structure for inversion of the N-atom bearing a hydrogen in close proximity to the hydroxyl was located at this level (N-H--OH angle  $120.7^\circ$ , NH--OH distance 1.707 Å, and NN-H distance 1.023 Å). The G2(MP2) energy of this transition-state was  $\sim 2.7 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  above that of the separated reactants. By contrast, at MP2/6-31+G(D, P) level, a well defined transition-state structure for H abstraction by OH was found (NN-H--OH angle  $141.9^\circ$ , NH--OH distance 1.459 Å, and NN-H distance 1.073 Å), its G2(MP2) energy being  $\sim 1.3 \text{ kcal mol}^{-1}$  lower than that of the reactants. This transition-state was directly connected to the hydrogen-bonded pre-reaction complex. The MP2/6-31+G(D, P) description of the energetics of the reaction would predict a negative experimental activation energy and a pressure insensitive rate coefficient [16]. The results of the present gas phase work are consistent with this. In the future, it would be most interesting to see how the computed barrier to H-abstraction and vibrational frequency information on the transition-state and pre-reaction complex predict the absolute magnitude and temperature dependence of the  $\text{OH} + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  gas phase reaction rate coefficient by means of transition-state theory rate expressions.

Despite increased complexity in the reaction mechanism from solvent/solute interactions in the liquid phase, the following comparisons can be made for the kinetics of the hydroxyl radical with hydrazine(s) where the same initial reaction products as those in the gas phase are formed. In basic aqueous solutions, Hayon and Simic [17] reported the room temperature rate coefficient to be  $2.32 \times 10^{-11}$  ( $\pm 15\%$ )  $\text{cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  which was independent of pH in the range 9-11. This is comparable to the present gas phase value. However, more recently Buxton and Stuart [18] reported a smaller observed room temperature (293 K) reaction rate coefficient,  $k_{\text{obs}}$ , of  $(0.75 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at pH = 11, which increased with temperature in the range 293-473 K in a non-Arrhenius fashion. At these high pHs, the hydroxyl radical interacts with neutral hydrazine that is preferentially hydrogen-bonds, via N-lone pair donation to the H-atom in water [3,19], to form a solvent complex whose H-abstraction reaction with OH is partially diffusion controlled [17] to produce  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and the hydrazyl radical,  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_3$ . Buxton and Stuart modeled the non-Arrhenius behavior of  $k_{\text{obs}}$  by calculating the non-Arrhenius temperature dependence [20,21] of the diffusion controlled rate coefficient,  $k_{\text{diff}} = (1/k_{\text{obs}} - 1/k_1)$ , and interpolated a positive Arrhenius activation energy of  $\sim 2.6 \text{ Kcal mol}^{-1}$  for  $k_1$  in the aqueous solution. Existence of the hydrazyl radical in the liquid phase reaction was directly identified by the appearance/disappearance of a transient uv-absorption signal at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = 230 \text{ nm}$  at early ( $< \sim 50 \mu\text{s}$ ) reaction times after the initiating radiolysis pulse. Furthermore, in acidic solutions, this prompt uv-absorption became much weaker with  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = \sim 225 \text{ nm}$  which was identified to be due to the protonated hydrazyl,  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4^+$ , formed from the reaction of OH with  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_5^+$ . A much smaller observed rate coefficient of  $(1.36 \pm 0.08) \times 10^{-13} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  was measured at 293 K for pH values of 6 and below. Here,  $k_{\text{obs}}$  showed an upward curvature in the

Arrhenius plot, which could be rationalized by the fact that more free hydrazine became available ( $\text{N}_2\text{H}_5^+ \rightleftharpoons \text{N}_2\text{H}_4 + \text{H}^+$ ) since the hydrozonium ion,  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_5^+$ , acid dissociation constant increased with temperature. In these experiments delayed transient uv-absorption at  $\lambda_{\text{max}} = \sim 230 \text{ nm}$  was also seen at long (ms) reaction times after the initiating radiolysis pulse [17,18,22]. The kinetic behavior of which pointed to the triazene species,  $\text{N}_3\text{H}_3$ , formed in the unimolecular dissociation of the tetrazane,  $\text{N}_4\text{H}_6$ , intermediate as the source of the absorbance. The unobservable  $\text{N}_4\text{H}_6$  species is directly formed in the self-reaction of the hydrazyl species,  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_3$ , formed in the initial OH attack on  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ .

To our knowledge, such extensive product studies in the gas phase have not been carried out for OH plus di-amine systems, though in the related gas phase H-abstraction reaction,  $\text{H} + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4 \rightarrow \text{H}_2 + \text{N}_2\text{H}_3$ , the hydrazyl radical has been identified as a major product by its mass spectrum signal [23,24] and from stable end-product analyses [25,26].  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_3$  is also formed as a minor product in the gas phase reaction,  $\text{O} + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4 \rightarrow \text{products}$  [27,28]. Our on previous work on unit H-atom primary quantum yield determinations in laser photolysis of di-amine vapors suggests that the corresponding stable co-fragment in the gas phase must be the hydrazyl radical [4,6]. Its gas phase ESR spectrum is known [29] and its low lying electronic structures have been computed previously [30]. The introduction of the  $\text{CH}_3$  moiety in the hydrazine molecule opens up the possibility of direct H-abstraction from the stronger C-H bonds, or enhancement of hydrogen bonding tendency and eventual removal of the H-atom from the weaker N-H bond. On the other hand, fewer N-H sites (but more C-H sites) are present on increased methylation. Experimentally, we see an increase in the measured gas phase rate coefficient for  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$

and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  compared to that for  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ . Some empirical comparisons of the relative OH reactivity at the N-H center and the C-H site can be made. The per N-H reactivity of  $\sim 0.93 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  in  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  if assumed to be the same in  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  (i.e. the N-H site pre-exponential factor, A and the activation energy,  $E_A$  remain constant) would imply a reactivity of  $\sim 0.69 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  for the C-H bond. Thus direct H-abstraction can compete with complex formation in  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$ . Use of these reactivities in  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  together with the observed  $k_2$  value at 298 K suggests a reactivity of  $\sim 2.18 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ s}^{-1}$  for the N-H with the methyl substitution, which is approximately twice that observed at the unsubstituted site. This enhancement could well be due to the formation of a more strongly bound hydrogen-bonded complex due to electron-donating effect of the methyl group compared to that formed at the unsubstituted site. Since in reality both the site-specific  $E_A$  and A values for a given reaction channel determine the overall reaction probability, only when absolute product yields and/or deuterium kinetic isotopic effects on the reaction rates are measured can we say which reaction path is the preferred mode for H-atom removal in OH plus di-amine system. It is encouraging to know that in the related amine homologous series:  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3$ ,  $\text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3$ , the alkylated amine reactions with OH are also fast and show negative temperature dependencies [31], while the ammonia reaction (involving H-atom metathesis) is slow and exhibits a positive temperature dependence [32]. It could well be that even here, methyl substitution promotes the formation of a hydrogen-bonded,  $\text{OH} \cdots \text{NH}_{(3-x)}(\text{CH}_3)_x$ , pre-reaction complex (where  $x = 1, 2, 3$ ) that dissociates quickly to eliminate  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and a radical co-fragment. The relative changes in the C-H and N-H bond energies in this homologous series [33] could well be influencing the site preference for H-atom removal to give the following observed reactivity trend of  $\text{NH}_2\text{CH}_3 <$

$\text{N}(\text{CH}_3)_3 < \text{NH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$  [31]. For purely H-metathesis reactions of OH (and other radicals) with alkanes (and other reagents), strong correlations between C-H bond energy strength and measured reaction rates and/or product yields have amply been verified previously [34].

The fate of di-amines in the atmosphere will be determined by their reactions with OH and  $\text{O}_3$ . Using an average value of  $\sim 1.1 \times 10^6 \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$  for the OH number density, lifetimes of  $\sim 6.6$ ,  $\sim 4.1$  and  $\sim 4.0$  hours are calculated for  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$ ,  $\text{CH}_3\text{NHNH}_2$  and  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$ , respectively for the troposphere at an average ambient temperature of 279 K. The corresponding lifetimes for reactions with ozone cannot be deduced accurately as only an upper limit for the  $\text{O}_3 + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  reactivity is available in the literature. The rate coefficient is estimated to be  $\sim 1.4 \times 10^{-16} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 298 K [35]. Use of an ozone number density of  $7.5 \times 10^{11} \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$  or less gives  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  lifetime of  $\sim 2.6$  hours or longer. The lifetimes of the alkylated di-amines with respect to  $\text{O}_3$  reaction may well be much shorter than this since they are thought to be much more reactive than  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  [35]. Therefore in urban air, during an ozone episode, the fate of the di-amines will most likely be governed by their degradation with ozone. An accurate assessment of the human health impact of the inherently toxic di-amines released at rocket launch sites must await proper determination of the  $\text{O}_3$  reaction rates, and the elucidation of the subsequent degradation chemistry of the initial products which are also believed to be toxic and/or carcinogenic in nature.



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Funding for this work was provided by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research under Contract # F04611-99-C-0025 with the Air Force Research Laboratory, Edwards AFB, CA 93524.

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**Table I** Temperature dependence of OH + N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> reaction rate coefficient,  $k_1$ .

T(K)	$ak_1(10^{-13} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$	bPressure (torr)	OH-Source	$c[\text{OH}]_0(10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})$	$v (\text{cm s}^{-1})$
232.0	475.0	1.84	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port <sup>f</sup>	18.0	1961
255.0	440.8	1.84	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	9.52	2270
255.0	454.0	1.86	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port <sup>f</sup>	11.0	2112
278.0	322.0	1.85	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	14.9	2251
278.0	353.4	1.84	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	8.74	2474
279.0	380.3	1.86	CF <sub>4</sub> -discharge/H <sub>2</sub> O-titration side-arm port	1.72	2345
292.0	386.1	1.84	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	8.32	2587
298.0	361.0	1.87	CF <sub>4</sub> -discharge/H <sub>2</sub> O-titration side-arm port	1.55	2468
298.0	363.0	1.76	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	10.8	2572
298.0	383.0	1.77	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	11.6	2518
298.0	362.2	1.81 <sup>d</sup>	O <sub>2</sub> -discharge, sliding-injector look at OH appearance	19.1 ([O] <sub>0</sub> )	2556
298.0	398.0	1.78	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	0.50	2536
299.0	391.0	1.82	CF <sub>4</sub> -discharge/H <sub>2</sub> O-titration side-arm port	6.99	2488
324.0	338.0	1.84	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	7.50	2810
374.0	268.3	1.83	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	6.50	3235
290.0	393.7	441.4	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	80.5	7.83
290.0	403.3	441.4	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	12.6	7.83
290.0	378.5	52.01	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	43.8	17.41
291.0	321.2	403.2 (N <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>e</sup>	N <sub>2</sub> O/N <sub>2</sub> -photolysis 2 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate look at OH appearance	76.0 ([O] <sub>0</sub> )	14.63
295.0	390.8	21.31 (N <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>e</sup>	N <sub>2</sub> O/N <sub>2</sub> -photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate look at OH appearance	56.0 ([O] <sub>0</sub> )	44.76
295.0	381.0	186.3 (N <sub>2</sub> ) <sup>e</sup>	N <sub>2</sub> O/N <sub>2</sub> -photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate look at OH appearance	59.0 ([O] <sub>0</sub> )	10.63
359.0	337.0	51.85	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	35.3	21.62
491.0	316.7	50.92	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	25.8	29.98

**Table I** continued;

T(K)	<b>a</b> $k_1(10^{-13} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$	<b>b</b> Pressure (torr)	OH-Source	<b>c</b> $[\text{OH}]_0(10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})$	$v \text{ (cm s}^{-1}\text{)}$
628.0	303.1	51.25	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	16.3	38.88
633.0	292.9	51.25	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	11.3	38.98

**a**Overall 1- $\sigma$  uncertainty in  $k_1$  is  $\sim \pm 18\%$  (precision plus estimated systematic).

**b**Pressure of He carrier gas unless otherwise stated.

**c**When O-atoms are reacted with N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>, the initial O-atom concentration,  $[\text{O}]_0$  is indicated.

**d**Excess [H<sub>2</sub>O] ( $1.0 \times 10^{15} \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$ ) present.

**e**Excess [CO<sub>2</sub>] ( $8.1 \times 10^{16} \text{ molec cm}^{-3}$ ) present.

**f**OH-fluorescence signal decay recorded for a fixed injector position,  $z$  and varying [N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>].

The observed 1<sup>st</sup>-order decays at each position are then plotted as a function of  $z$  to calculate  $k_1$ .

This approach at low-T gave somewhat better reproducibility in the measured decay rate compared to that when the decay rate was measured for a fixed [N<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub>] and varying  $z$ .

**Table II** Temperature dependence of OH + CH<sub>3</sub>NHNH<sub>2</sub> reaction rate coefficient,  $k_2$ .

T(K)	$ak_2(10^{-13} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$	He Pressure (torr)	OH-Source	$[\text{OH}]_0(10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})$	$v \text{ (cm s}^{-1}\text{)}$
258.0	645.1	2.00	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.63	2803
278.0	637.1	2.06	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.48	2983
292.0	565.0	2.09	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	4.40	3209
298.0	561.0	1.9.0	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	2.50	3300
298.0	613.0	1.97	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	0.76	3096
298.0	564.4	2.02	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.17	3225
298.0	640.0	2.02	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.15	3203
316.0	540.0	2.06	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.12	3374
345.0	506.8	2.11	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.91	3685
373.0	528.1	2.08	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.73	4023
289.0	691.3	51.05	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	33.6	17.08
289.0	697.5	50.98	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	1.98	17.53
289.0	604.8	503.7	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	76.2	6.44
357.0	648.3	51.78	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	29.2	21.32
475.0	588.4	51.55	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 3 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	21.9	28.50
637.0	529.1	487.9	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 2 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	34.1	14.11

<sup>a</sup>Overall 1- $\sigma$  uncertainty in  $k_2$  is  $\sim \pm 18\%$  (precision plus estimated systematic).

Table III Temperature dependence of OH + (CH<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>NNH<sub>2</sub> reaction rate coefficient, k<sub>3</sub>.

T(K)	$k_1(10^{-13} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1})$	He Pressure (torr)	OH-Source	$[\text{OH}]_0(10^{10} \text{ cm}^{-3})$	$v \text{ (cm s}^{-1}\text{)}$
254.0	724.5	1.99	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.85	2834
278.0	745.5	2.04	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.93	3034
296.0	576.9	2.01	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.04	3387
297.0	573.1	2.05	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.18	3216
298.0	641.0	1.98	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	3.20	3368
298.0	534.0	2.06	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.10	3124
298.0	606.8	1.97	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	1.20	2956
298.0	635.6	1.94	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	1.57	3158
298.0	693.0	2.16	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration sliding-injector	1.61	3012
315.0	560.4	2.01	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	3.05	3507
341.0	535.0	2.02	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	2.83	3790
373.0	498.0	2.06	H <sub>2</sub> -discharge/NO <sub>2</sub> -titration side-arm port	1.85	3991
296.0	572.0	36.2	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	196.0	20.10
297.0	570.0	35.1	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	86.1	20.30
446.0	472.6	32.6	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	108.7	34.10
533.0	447.4	33.4	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	185.7	39.98
630.0	499.1	33.4	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	3.52	48.60
630.0	472.3	33.4	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	150.5	48.60
632.0	476.0	530.0	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 1 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	155.2	13.43
632.0	376.0	530.0	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 10 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	155.2	13.43
633.0	475.9	508.0	N <sub>2</sub> O/H <sub>2</sub> O-photolysis 2 Hz 193-nm laser rap rate	34.1	13.79

<sup>a</sup>Overall 1- $\sigma$  uncertainty in k<sub>3</sub> is  $\sim \pm 18\%$  (precision plus estimated systematic).

## FIGURE CAPTIONS

**Figure 1** Measured OH-fluorescence signal,  $\text{OHS}$  as a function of flow-tube reaction time,  $t$  in different  $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2$  concentrations;  $=$  zero (crosses),  $= 0.292 \times 10^{13}$  (open circles),  $= 0.643 \times 10^{13}$  (open triangles),  $= 0.957 \times 10^{13}$  (open squares), and  $= 1.339 \times 10^{13}$  molec  $\text{cm}^{-3}$  (open diamonds) at 373 K and in 2 torr He. OH is produced in the side-arm discharge port.

**Figure 2** Plot of pseudo-first-order decay coefficients,  $k_{\text{net}} = (k + k_{\text{w},i})$  versus the  $[(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NNH}_2]$  of Figure 1. Because the upward correction, Refs. [13,14], of  $k_{\text{net}}$  for axial diffusion,  $k_{\text{corr}} = k_{\text{net}}(1 + k_{\text{net}}\mathcal{D}/v^2)$ , where  $\mathcal{D}$ , in units of  $\text{cm}^2 \text{s}^{-1}$ , is the diffusion coefficient of OH in He is expected to be  $< 5\%$ , Ref. [15], the flow-tube data was not corrected for this since the other overall errors in the experiment are calculated to be  $\sim \pm 18\%$ , Ref. [5]. The absolute second-order rate coefficient,  $k_3$  is determined to be  $(4.98 \pm 0.89) \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \text{ molec}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$  at 373 K.

**Figure 3** OH appearance profile in the  $\text{O} + \text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  reaction during 193-nm photolysis of  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  ( $2.1 \times 10^{15}$ ) in  $\text{N}_2$  ( $6.2 \times 10^{17}$ ) and  $\text{CO}_2$  ( $8.1 \times 10^{16}$  molec  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ ). The laser fluence was  $\sim 1.6 \text{ mJ/cm}^2/\text{pulse}$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{H}_4$  concentration was  $1.10 \times 10^{13}$  molec  $\text{cm}^{-3}$ . The characteristic coefficients of appearance and decay in the signal yield values for  $k_1$ (phenomenological) and  $k_{\text{O}}$ , respectively. Where  $k_{\text{O}}$  is the absolute second-order rate coefficient for O-atom reaction with hydrazine, and  $k_1$ (phenomenological) corresponds closely to the absolute second-order rate coefficient for OH reaction with the di-amine.



**Figure 4** The Arrhenius temperature dependencies of the absolute second-order rate coefficients;  $k_1$ ,  $k_2$  and  $k_3$  for OH reactions with  $N_2H_4$  (diamonds),  $CH_3NHNH_2$  (circles), and  $(CH_3)_2NNH_2$  (squares), respectively. Open data points were obtained using the flow-tube apparatus and solid data points using the pulsed-photolysis reactor. Previous results of Ref. [1] (crosses) and Ref. [2] (plus) are also shown.

Figure 1

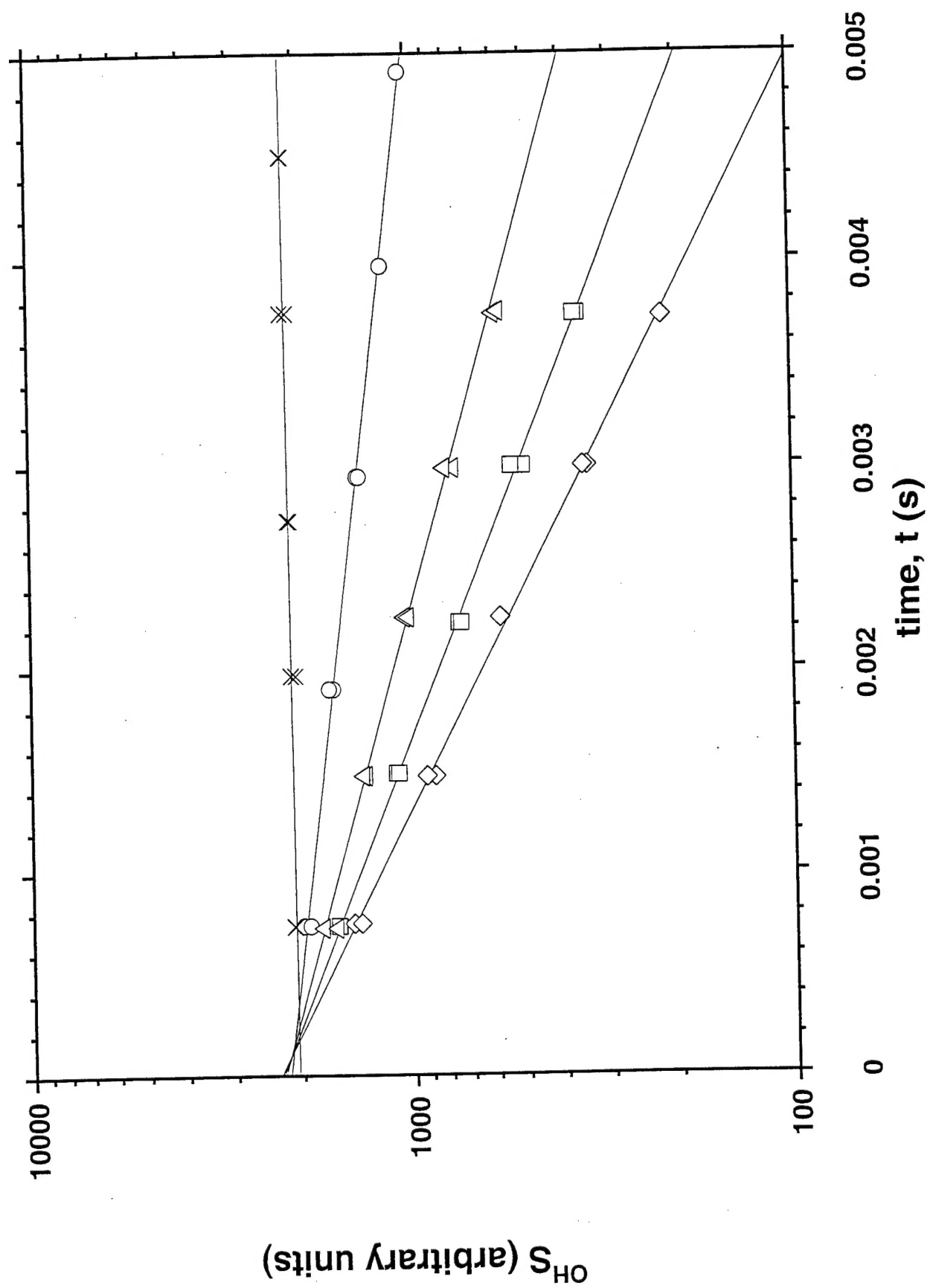


Figure 2

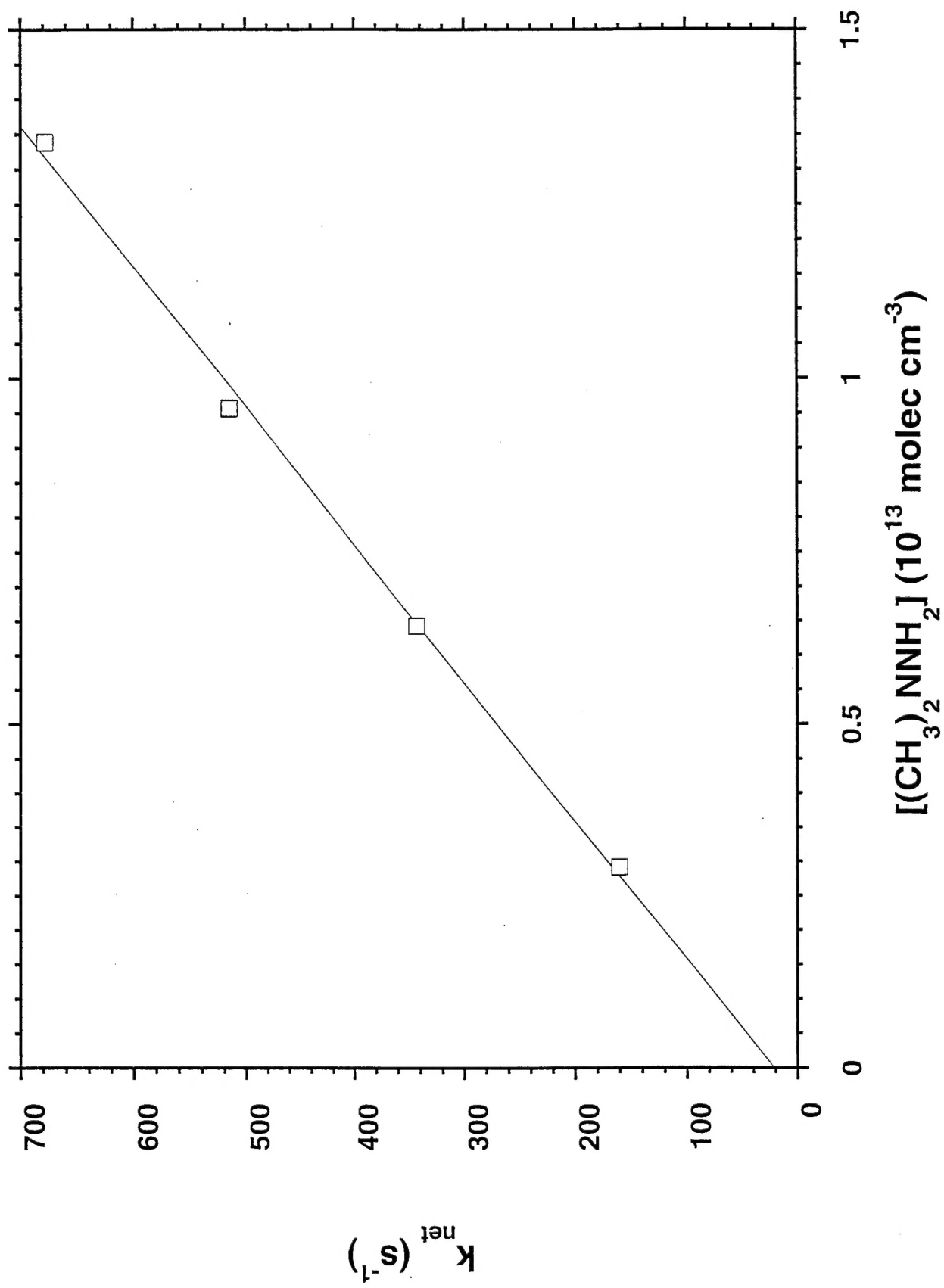


Figure 3

